

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9387
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AMCONSUL GOTEBORG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY MEETING DISCUSSES INTERNAL
PROBLEMS

REF: STOCKHOLM 5896

1. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY
(VPK) AND VPK DISTRICT CHAIRMEN MET DECEMBER 18 TO
DISCUSS THE VPK'S INTERNAL SITUATION (REFTEL).
CHAIRMAN LARS WERNER LATER DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS "A
GREAT SUCCESS FOR PARTY UNITY." THE TALKS PRODUCED A
STATEMENT CONDEMNING FACTIONALISM, ENDORSING DEMOCRATIC
PRINCIPLES, AND ESPOUSING FREEDOM OF OPINION AND
DISCUSSION WITHIN THE PARTY. THE STATEMENT SPECIFICALLY
CRITICIZED OPPOSITION TO DECISIONS TAKEN "IN DEMOCRATIC
ORDER" BY THE PARTY CONGRESS AND "CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE
PARTY PROPER AND DECISIONS MADE BY PARTY ORGANS."
THERE WERE TWO DISSENTING VOTES.
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2. OF THE 22 VPK DISTRICT CHAIRMEN, ONLY THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE NORBOTTEN AND VASTERBOTTEN DISTRICTS DISSOCIATED
THEMSELVES FROM THE STATEMENT, APPARENTLY, ACCORDING TO
THE PRESS, BECAUSE OF TWO LINES ATTACKING THE ORTHODOX
PAPER NORRSKENSFLAMMEN AND ITS SUPPORTERS. PRESS REPORTS

STATE THAT THE VPK EXECUTIVE CONSIDERED THAT SEVEN OF THE DISTRICT LEADERS WERE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS, AND THAT WERNER TOOK IT AS A SUCCESS THAT ONLY TWO OPPOSED THE STATEMENT.

3. THOUGH NORBOTTEN DISTRICT CHAIRMAN ALF LOWENBERG MADE CONCILIATORY COMMENTS AFTER THE MEETING, HE AND WERNER LATER EXCHANGED CHARGES OF "FACTIONALISM" BEFORE THE PRESS. WERNER ALSO DECLARED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO TALK OF FURTHER EXCLUSIONS FROM THE VPK, AND CALLED FOR SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF UNITY EMBODIED IN THE STATEMENT.

4. COMMENT: THE PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES OF WERNER'S SELF-PROCLAIMED "GREAT SUCCESS"" REMAIN TO BE SEEN. HE HAS ATTAINED A SYMBOLIC ADVANTAGE IN OBTAINING NEARLY UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLES OF PARTY UNITY AND LOYALTY TO PARTY DECISIONS AGAINST WHICH LATER ACTIONS CAN BE MEASURED, BUT THE REFUSAL OF THE NORBOTTEN DISTRICT TO SUPPORT THE STATEMENT INDICATES THAT THE BASIC INTRA-PARTY TENSIONS, WHILE NOW SOMEWHAT RELAXED, REMAIN.
SMITH

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